

*Valiant* (novel)

文\_A 1 language ▾

Article

Talk

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Redirected from [Valiant: A Modern Tale of Faerie](#))

**This article has multiple issues.** Please help [improve it](#) or discuss these issues on the [talk page](#). *(Learn how and when to remove these messages)*

- This article **may contain [original research](#)**. *(February 2015)*
- This article **needs [more citations](#)**. *(February 2015)*

***Valiant: A Modern Tale of Faerie***, is a [young adult urban fantasy](#) novel by [Holly Black](#).

It was published in 2005 by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, who recommended it for ages "14 up".<sup>[2]</sup> *Valiant* is a sequel to Black's debut novel *Tithe* (2002), and the second in a trilogy that is sometimes called *[A] Modern Tale of Faerie* (2002–2007).<sup>[1]</sup>

Where *Tithe* is set mainly on the [Jersey Shore](#), *Valiant* is set in [New York City](#). The two novels share a major premise, or fictional universe, but *Valiant* also works as a standalone story. According to online excerpts from a 2006 [Locus](#) interview and short biography of Black, "*Valiant* (2005) is another contemporary fantasy loosely related to *Tithe*, and *Ironsides*, a direct sequel to *Tithe*, is forthcoming."<sup>[3]</sup>

*Valiant* won the inaugural [Andre Norton Award](#) as the year's best U.S. science fiction or fantasy for young adults as selected by vote of the [Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America](#) (SFFWA).<sup>[4]</sup> It was also a finalist for the annual [Mythopoeic Award](#) for children's literature, as *Tithe* had been.<sup>[5]</sup>

### Plot summary [\[edit\]](#)

Valerie Russell, a high school student, discovers that her single mother and her boyfriend, Tom, are having an affair. Val runs away to New York City and meets up with a group of teen-squatters, including Lolli (as in lollipop), Dave, and Luis. Val earns the nickname "Prince Valiant" after she helps a [drag queen](#) locate her shoe.

She soon learns about the group's contact with a [troll](#), Ravus, who lives beneath a bridge, as in the [fairy tale "Three Billy Goats Gruff"](#). Ravus makes "Never", which faeries in exile take in order to resist iron. These exiles are dispersed throughout the city, and Dave and Luis must deliver the glamour to them. Never can be used as a highly addictive drug by humans, who can then use magic for a short time. Lolli and Dave introduce Val to "Nevermore", as they call it, and she, like the other squatters, is soon hooked.

Ravus, despite Val's first impressions, is much kinder than he appears. He begins to teach her [swordplay](#) and the bond between them strengthens. Val's mounting problems and addiction take a nasty turn, and the trust Ravus has in her is threatened.

Many of the Seelie court exiles are being poisoned and Ravus is blamed. When Val's friend Ruth arrives, attempting to convince Val to come home, Val agrees, but not before saying goodbye to Ravus. She cannot find him in his alcove, so she finds Ruth, Lolli and Luis by Belvedere Castle. Luis, making sexual advances toward Lolli very unexpectedly, informs her Dave has angrily stormed off. A tree-spirit faerie leads Val to a festival by the water, where faeries and humans called "sweet tooths" run around freely. Ravus arrives, and delirious and half-starved, Val kisses him. Mabry arrives as well, and Val realizes she is the one who killed all the Fey. She tries to tell Ravus but Mabry cuts in, telling Ravus Val has been stealing his potions, and she flees as he becomes enraged.

Ruth and Val go to find evidence of Mabry's murders, and they find a harp in which Mabry has strung the hair of those she's killed, including that of Tamson, Ravus' best friend and Mabry's ex-lover. When the hairs are plucked, they sing of their deaths, revealing that Mabry is responsible for Tamson's death and Ravus' exile. They discover that Dave has been impersonating Luis, uncontrollably high on Never he got from Mabry after putting poison in Ravus' potions for her. Dave takes off his glamour and falls unconscious. Ruth rushes him to the hospital as Lolli runs off, and the real Luis and Val search for Ravus so he can cure Dave. They find that Mabry has cut out Ravus' heart. Val pulls back the curtains and turn Ravus to stone, and Val and Luis pursue Mabry into the Unseelie Court. She challenges Mabry to a first-blood duel for Ravus' heart with Ravus' glass sword, and after a moment's decision to never use Never again, fights Mabry on talent alone and stabs her in the throat. She and Luis place Ravus' heart back into his chest, healing him. Ravus gives Luis the tools to go heal his brother, and he and Val admit their love for one another.

Eventually, Val decides to leave the streets and return home with Ruth. She and Ravus continually see one another, and Val says she plans to go to New York for college so she can see him. Val is happy her life is back to normal, with the exception of having a faerie for a boyfriend and never being able to introduce him to her mother.

## Characters [\[ edit \]](#)

- **Valerie "Val" Russell** – Val is the protagonist. She finds out that her mother is having an affair with her boyfriend, Tom, and runs away from home. Desperate for change, she shaves her head and takes up living with a trio of homeless teenagers in an abandoned train station; Dave, Lolly, and Luis. Val's new friends introduce her to the faery drug, Nevermore, which she becomes addicted to. Consequently, she gets caught in the homeless people's secret relationship with the faeries living among them. Midway through the book, she begins to learn swordplay from Ravus, a local troll, and eventually falls in love with him.
- **Ruth** – Val's lesbian best friend. It turns out that she knew all about Tom and Val's mother. Several weeks after Val runs away, Ruth comes to find her and refuses to go home without Val.
- **Tom** – Val's ex-boyfriend. He was having an affair with her mother, which resulted in Val running away.
- **Ms. Russell** – Val's mother. She and Val's father are divorced. Val finds out that she was sleeping with Tom, Val's boyfriend, in the beginning of the book. Despite bad judgment, she genuinely cares for Val and is desperately worried when Val disappears.
- **"Sketchy" Dave** – Luis's younger brother. He is also addicted to Nevermore. Dave is not particularly loyal to anyone but himself, and strikes a deal with Mabry to frame Ravus for poisoning fey in exchange for her temporarily locking up Luis and also some more Never. Dave is in love with Lolly and resents his brother for her attraction towards him.
- **Lollipop (Lolly)** – One of the homeless teenagers Val lives with. Lolly is in love with Luis, but he does not return her feelings. Lolly has long, faded, aqua blue hair and only watches out for herself. She is also addicted to Nevermore and is responsible for Val getting addicted to Never. She is also the one who discovered the powers that it gives humans.
- **Luis** – Dave's older brother. He has the Sight and lives in almost perpetual fear of the faerie folk. As a precaution against them, he had multiple iron piercings put in his face. He is blind in one eye, which was put out by a faerie when he was very young. Luis is easily the most responsible of the homeless teens, and would do anything for his brother, Dave, even though Dave typically resents the help. Before the book takes place, he struck a deal with Ravus to heal Dave from a gunshot wound in exchange for Luis' help with deliveries.
- **Ravus** – A "young" troll whom Luis and Dave do errands for. He is a healer and makes medicine for the city fey to ease their sickness to iron. He is accused of poisoning several fey who die subsequent to taking his medicine. Ravus was self-banished from the faerie courts after he accidentally slew his best friend in a duel. Midway through the book, he begins to teach Val swordplay, and eventually falls in love with her.
- **Mabry** – A half-goat fey who is responsible for the death of Ravus' friend. She was his lover, and weakened his armor during the duel so that when Ravus struck it, it offered no protection. Her plan backfired when she was banished with Ravus to "mourn her loss". She hates Ravus and planned to get revenge on him by framing him for a series of fey poisonings.

*Valiant* introduces all of these main characters; none are from *Tithe*. Roiben and Kaye from *Tithe* do make appearances; Silarial and Nicnevin are referred to by Mabry.

See also [\[ edit \]](#)

Portal:  Children's literature

## References [\[ edit \]](#)

1. ^ <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> [Modern Tale of Faerie](#) <sup>c</sup>. series listing at the [Internet Speculative Fiction Database](#). Retrieved 2014-05-07.
2. ^ <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> ["Valiant: a modern tale of faerie"](#) <sup>c</sup>. Library of Congress Catalog Record. Retrieved 2014-05-07.
3. ^ ["Holly Black: Through the Maze"](#) <sup>c</sup>. Excerpts from interview and biographical profile published in [Locus](#), May 2006. [Locus Online](#). 2006. Retrieved 2014-05-07.
4. ^ ["Holly Black"](#) <sup>c</sup>. Science Fiction Awards Database (sfadb.com). Retrieved 2014-05-08.
5. ^ ["Mythopoeic Awards – Fantasy"](#) <sup>c</sup> (list of winners and finalists). Mythopoeic Society. Retrieved 2014-05-08.

## External links  [[edit](#)]

- [Valiant](#) at Holly Black (blackholly.com)
- [Valiant: A Modern Tale of Faerie](#) on Amazon

|                                                                            |                                                                           |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <span>V · T · E</span>                                                     | <b>Holly Black</b>                                                        | <span>[show]</span> |
| <span>V · T · E</span>                                                     | <b>Andre Norton Nebula Award for Middle Grade and Young Adult Fiction</b> | <span>[show]</span> |
| <b>Authority control databases</b> <span><span><span></span></span></span> | <span>Open Library</span> <span><span><span></span></span></span>         |                     |

Categories: [2005 American novels](#) | [2005 English-language novels](#) | [Urban fantasy novels](#) | [Novels set in New York City](#) | [2005 fantasy novels](#) | [Sequel novels](#) | [Simon & Schuster books](#) | [Novels by Holly Black](#) | [Andre Norton Award–winning novels](#) | [Novels about fairies](#)

Appearance

hide

Text

- ☐ Small
- ☒ Standard
- ☐ Large

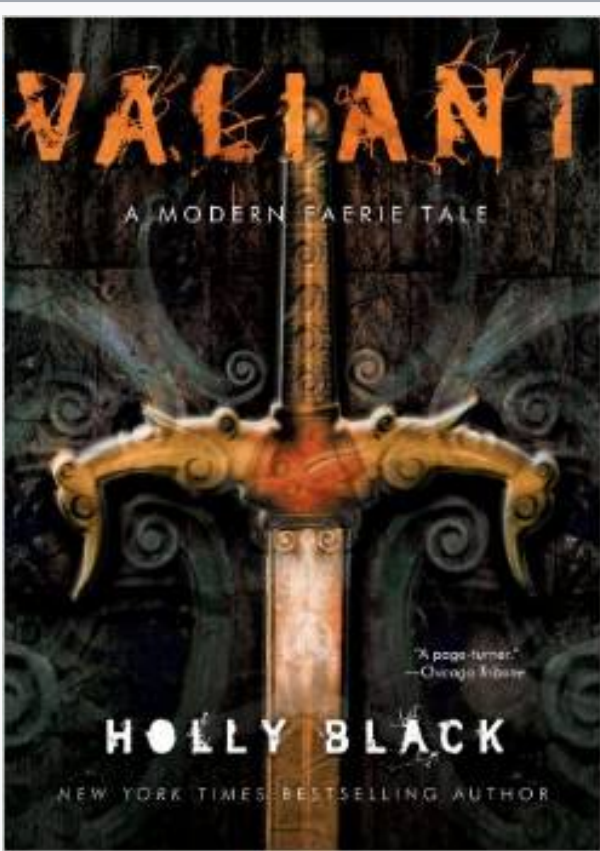
Wid

- ☒ Standard
- ☐ Wide

☐ Wide

Color

- ☐ Automatic
- ☒ Light
- ☐ Dark



Cover Photo of the paperback edition.

|                                                             |                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Author</b>                                               | Holly Black                                                                                    |
| <b>Cover artist</b>                                         | Sammy Yuen, Jr.                                                                                |
| <b>Series</b>                                               | <i>Modern Tale of Faerie #2</i> <sup>[1]</sup>                                                 |
| <b>Genre</b>                                                | Young adult fantasy                                                                            |
| <b>Publisher</b>                                            | Simon & Schuster                                                                               |
| <b>Publication date</b>                                     | June 2005                                                                                      |
| <b>Publication place</b>                                    | United States                                                                                  |
| <b>Media type</b>                                           | Print ( <a href="#">hardcover</a> )                                                            |
| <b>Pages</b>                                                | 314 pp<br>(1st ed. hardcover)                                                                  |
| <b>ISBN</b>                                                 | 9780689868221<br>(1st ed. hardcover)                                                           |
| <b>OCLC</b><br><small><a href="#">OCLC/WorldCat</a></small> | 64442595  |
| <b><a href="#">L.C. Class</a></b>                           | PZ7.B52878 Val 2005 <sup>[2]</sup>                                                             |
| <b>Preceded by</b>                                          | <i>Tithe</i>                                                                                   |
| <b>Followed by</b>                                          | <i>Ironside</i>                                                                                |